



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

22 APRIL 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Menlo Park – Facebook Disables Palestinian Authority-Linked Accounts Used for Spying

(U) Facebook announced on Wednesday that it had disabled accounts it said were being used by the Palestinian Authority's Preventative Security Service (PSS), its internal intelligence organization, to spy on political opponents, journalists and human rights activists. The PSS-linked accounts targeted primarily domestic audiences in Palestine, with the activity originating in the West Bank. These accounts also targeted, to a lesser extent, users in Turkey, Iraq, Lebanon and Libya. Facebook also said it had identified and disabled a group affiliated with Hamas based in Gaza, which was engaged in espionage operations. This campaign was linked to Arid Viper, a known persistent threat actor.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [Algemeiner](#)

(U) Sacramento – Judge Refuses to Extradite Refugee Accused of Committing a Killing for ISIS

(U) A federal judge in California refused to allow the extradition to Iraq of Omar Abdulsattar Ameen who is accused of committing a killing for the Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS). The judge believes that cellphone evidence shows he was in Turkey at the time of the slaying. The US Justice Department has tried since 2018 to return Ameen to Iraq under a treaty with that nation. He fled to Turkey in 2012 and in June 2014 was granted status as a refugee in the US on the grounds that he was a victim of terrorism. An Iraqi extradition request said that he returned to Iraq that same month to kill a police officer in the town of Rawah after it fell to ISIS. Five months later, Ameen traveled to the US to resettle as a refugee. He had been living in the Sacramento area.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [AV Press](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Colorado – Boulder Shooting Suspect Charged with Using Large Magazine

(U) Denver – Local prosecutors in Colorado filed more than 40 felony charges against Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa, 21, charged with killing 10 people at a Boulder supermarket last month, including allegedly using a large capacity magazine banned by state lawmakers in response to recent mass shootings. The court document outlining the new charges lists 19 new victims, including 11 law enforcement officers, that Alissa is accused of trying to kill during the attack. Some victims have more than one count of attempted first-degree murder associated with them, specifying two different theories for how Alissa allegedly tried to kill them, either intentionally or through "extreme indifference" to human life.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [AP News](#)

(U) Massachusetts – Man Charged with Hate Crimes After Allegedly Trying to Hurt Black Children

(U) Holbrook – Shane Belleville, 36, is facing charges, for allegedly yelling a racial epithet and driving his truck toward a group of Black children. Belleville is being charged with hate crimes and assault with a dangerous weapon. Officers reviewed surveillance footage, spoke to witnesses and determined that the incident began as a verbal argument between two children, a 7-year-old and an 8-year-old, one Black and one White. Belleville was asked to come and assist with the confrontation, which had broken up by

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the time he arrived. Belleville allegedly confronted the group of Black children before eventually getting into his truck and attempting to assault them with his vehicle.

SOURCE: 21 April 2021, [CNN](#)

(U) New Jersey – Drug Trafficking Bust Nets 30 Arrests, Three Charged with Murder

(U) Atlantic City – Prosecutors in Atlantic County have charged 30 people in connection to a large-scale drug trafficking ring that stretched across several parts of New Jersey for more than four years. Steven Martinez, 27, and Shiraz Khan, 31, have supplied dealers with large quantities of narcotics, including, heroin, cocaine, Suboxone, Percocet, and marijuana since 2016. Khan continued to operate the drug trafficking ring while incarcerated at an Atlantic County jail. He allegedly had drugs smuggled into the prison by a Corrections Officer and used cell phones to coordinate with outside dealers. Prosecutors also charged Martinez, Shamar Scott, 25, and Deshawn Hose, 23, with murder in the 2019 shooting death of Demond Tally, 45.

SOURCE: 21 April 2021, [FOX35](#)

(U) New York – Port Authority Bomber Sentenced to Life

(U) New York City – Port Authority bomber Akayed Ullah was sentenced to life-in-prison Thursday for his failed attempt at a suicide bombing during the hectic New York City morning rush hour. The Bangladeshi immigrant detonated a pipe bomb strapped to his chest on 11 December 2017 after reading ISIS propaganda and recruiting materials. He told police afterwards that he attempted the attack in a subway tunnel between Times Square and the crowded Port Authority bus terminal “for the Islamic State.” The blast badly burned Ullah. Three others suffered minor injuries. Ullah, an electrician, was found guilty in November 2018. At trial, he denied any allegiance to ISIS, saying he was instead making a statement against President Donald Trump.

SOURCE: 21 April 2021, [New York Daily News](#)

(U) Oregon – Suspect Faces New Charges Related to Downtown Portland Riot

(U) Portland – Theodore Matthee-O'Brien, 22, faces additional charges related to an April riot in Portland as police continue to investigate crimes committed amid unrest in the city. O'Brien has already been arrested and accused of crimes related to those of Friday, April 16, 2021, when a riot was declared in downtown Portland. The Portland Police Bureau said its Central Precinct Neighborhood Response Team has been working on a follow-up investigation of the damage that was done to local businesses that night. Police said the collective damage totaled in the thousands-of-dollars and impacted more than 30 businesses. In working with businesses and community members to document the extent of the damage, police said officers developed probable cause to arrest Matthee-O'Brien. He now faces riot and criminal mischief charges.

SOURCE: 21 April 2021, [KATU2](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Canada – Huawei Chief Financial Officer's Extradition Hearings Delayed

(U) Vancouver – A Canadian judge has agreed to delay Huawei Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou's US extradition hearings for three months, according to a ruling read in court on Wednesday. Meng, 49, was arrested at Vancouver International Airport on charges of bank fraud in the US for allegedly misleading HSBC about Huawei's business dealings in Iran, causing the bank to break US sanctions. Meng's team asked for more time to review additional documents that became available after HSBC and Huawei reached a settlement in Hong Kong. Extradition hearings were originally set to wrap up in May.

SOURCE: 21 April 2021, [US News](#)

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(U) Mexico – Cartel Injures Police Officers with Drone Bomb Attack

(U) Morelia – The Jalisco New Generation Cartel (CJNG) appears to be behind an attack in the western state of Michoacán in which at least two drones rigged with explosives attacked police, injuring two officers. The CJNG is regarded as Mexico's strongest gang and styles itself as an army. The drone bombing is an escalation of the cartel's use of such weapons. The latest incident took place in an area where the CJNG is battling for control against a rival group calling itself United Cartels. State police arrived to restore order earlier this month; the cartels tried to stop them by blocking roads with hijacked trucks and digging trenches across them.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [Forbes](#)

(U) Pakistan – Taliban Takes Credit for Car Bomb at Luxury Hotel

(U) Quetta – The Pakistani Taliban said it was behind the blast in the car park of the Serena Hotel, and that it had targeted police officers and other officials. A Taliban spokesman described it as an attack by a suicide bomber using a car filled with explosives. Initial reports had suggested the target was China's ambassador. Two security guards were reported to be among the dead. All guests at the hotel were safe, officials told local media. The Serena Hotel is the best known in Quetta, and provides accommodation for government officials and visiting dignitaries.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [BBC News](#)

(U) United Kingdom – Police Officer Dismissed for Belonging to Neo-Nazi Terrorist Organization

(U) London – A man who became the first British police officer convicted of belonging to a neo-Nazi terrorist organization has been dismissed from the Metropolitan police without notice. Ben Hannam was found guilty on 1 April of membership of the banned extremist group National Action (NA) following a trial at the Old Bailey. Helen Ball, who chaired the hearing indicated that his actions had harmed public confidence and the reputation of their police force.

SOURCE: 22 April 2021, [The Guardian](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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